

Community Health Administration

February 24, 2016

Dear Grower:

The DC Department of Health (DOH), Community Health Administration, Nutrition and Physical Fitness Bureau, The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) and the DC Office on Aging Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) is beginning the process of accepting applications for the 2016 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program season.

Both the DC WIC FMNP and SFMNP programs operating from Wednesday, June 1, 2016 through Wednesday, November 30, 2016, will provide checks valued at \$5.00 each to participants for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables from FMNP approved farmers. The WIC Vegetable and Fruit Cash-Value Checks (CVC) are issued all year long. Children ages one to five years currently receive a monthly stipend of \$8.00, women receive a stipend of \$11.00, and women exclusively breastfeeding multiple babies will receive a monthly stipend of \$16.50. Maryland WIC participants that receive the Fruit and Vegetable check receive the same tender amounts as District residents that receive the Vegetable and Fruit Cash-Value Checks. Farmers are encouraged to join the Maryland WIC FMNP and Senior FMNP. Farmers are able to redeem Maryland WIC and Senior FMNP benefits at the DC based markets.

The FMNP Application Process

Farmers must apply to each State's FMNP program separately. In the enclosed documents you will find the application packet for the District of Columbia. In the District application packet you will find two copies of the vendor agreement. We ask that you sign both copies of the agreement and return them to the DC WIC State Agency. Only authorized farmers can participate in WIC and Senior FMPNs voucher and CVC redemptions, and we invite you to apply. Applications must be post marked no later than **Friday, April 8, 2016. We will only consider applications submitted by the due date.**

Training

This year the [all FMNP farmers and market managers](#) are required to attend training. The training will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 9:30 am at 1100 Fourth Street, SW, Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20024. Parking fees range about \$24.00. Lunch is on your own. We encourage you to bring persons who handle your check processing to the training.

If you are approved to participate in the 2016 FMNP season, you will be held responsible for ensuring that all employees at your farm stand are knowledgeable and understand the DC and Maryland WIC FMNP and Senior FMNP, DC WIC CVC, Maryland WIC Fruit and Vegetable Check (FVC), Once approved, all first time farmers will receive a DC WIC and Senior FMNP and CVC stamps, program posters, and a 2016 FMNP and CVC Farmers' Guide. All reauthorized farmers should use last year's stamp. Each farmer will receive a confirmation letter listing the approved locations where you can accept program benefits.



**Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Health**



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Enclosed are the DC WIC and Senior FMNP and CVC application, Optional Application for the Farmer on Wheels Project, Vendor Agreement, Authorization Process Timeline, Authorization Criteria, Farmers Profile Sheet for Webpage, Registration for the Farmers' Training, and the 2015 FMNP Survey for returning farmers.

The District of Columbia Department of Health is offering a farmers' market incentive program called Produce Plus Program. The Produce Plus Program application packet will be in a separate correspondence. If you have any questions regarding the Maryland programs please contact Shelby Watson Hampton, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, on 410-841-5776. If you have any questions or need further assistance about DC programs, please contact Sabrina Lewis, Public Health Advisor, on 202-442-9367 or Gargi Parikh, Office on Aging, Public Health Nutritionist on 202-535-1417. We welcome any new ideas you may have to help make this season our best ever, please share them with us.

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Sincerely,

Christi Dorsey, MA, RDN
DC WIC State Agency Director
Enclosures